

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Michael Evans, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services	
DECISION DATE:	On or after 17 February 2017	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2930
TITLE:	Castle Primary Phase 4 (Final Phase) to Expand to a 420 (2FE) Place School	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 – Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2015-2019		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Increasing pupil numbers due to housing development and underlying population growth in the Keynsham area have required Castle Primary school to expand from a 210 place one form entry school to a 420 place two form entry primary school. In order to accommodate the full 420 pupils this final phase (4) of the project is proposed to provide the additional permanent accommodation and facilities required.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member are asked:

- 2.1 To approve a capital budget of £2.626m. Section 106 contributions totalling £1.261m have been received by the Council and a carry forward of £70k from the previous phase 3 project budget is available, leaving a balance of £1.295m to be allocated from Basic Need funding.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 There are no revenue implications, revenue funding for pupil places will be provided by the Department for Education (DfE) through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) on a per pupil basis.
- 3.2 The DfE currently allocate Basic Need capital funding to local authorities in order to provide additional school places, where pupils are projected to exceed the number of places available and where the increase is occurring as a result of population growth.

- 3.3 The Council's [Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2015 – 2019](#) sets out the priorities for the provision of school places.
- 3.4 Basic Need grant funding of £3.039m in 2017/18 and £5.758m in 2018/19 has been confirmed by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for Basic Need to support the provision of additional pupil places where there is population growth. It has been identified previously that additional Basic Need funding will be required to meet the cost of the final phase to expand Castle Primary.
- 3.5 An area of land is provided through Section 106 Agreement plus Capital Contributions totalling £2.057m to enable the expansion of the school. £796k of the S106 capital contribution has been spent at previous phases 1, 2 and 3 leaving a balance of £1.261m available to be spent at this final phase 4 of the project.
- 3.6 The project is to be funded by S106 and Basic Need as the additional primary school places are required due to one third population growth and two thirds housing development.
- 3.7 The project budget identified is in line with current cost estimates and contains project contingency.
- 3.8 Provisional approval of the capital budget is being sought in the Council's 2017-18 Budget Report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Relevant considerations: The Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for its area (Section 14 Education Act 1996), Children, Equalities, Planning, Social Inclusion, Property, Impact on staff, sustainability.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 To accommodate children generated from local housing development and projected population growth it was agreed that Castle Primary school would expand by one form entry to become a 420 place primary school.
- 5.2 The expansion is a phased development to accommodate pupils when the additional places are needed and to allow the school to continue to operate.
- 5.3 Phases 1, 2 and 3 converted an existing IT suite into a classroom, provided two new build classrooms as an extension to the existing school buildings and remodelled internal areas to accommodate additional pupils and provide extra facilities in line with BB103 Guidance (area guidelines for mainstream schools). Temporary classrooms were also installed as part of Phase 3 to accommodate children while the new build phase 4 teaching block is delivered
- 5.4 Phase 4 will provide a new 4 classroom teaching block, additional hall/PE space, toilets and cloakrooms. This final phase will also extend existing admin accommodation and reception area, improving security and safeguarding staff and pupils. Once the new build is complete work is required to the outside areas for playground, soft play and parking facilities. The temporary classrooms will be removed on occupation of the new classrooms.

- 5.5 From September 2018 Castle Primary will be a fully operational two form entry 420 place primary school with all the associated facilities required.
- 5.6 The development at Castle Primary will provide robust, well designed facilities which will be an asset to the school and the local community.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The Council retains the legal responsibility for pupil place planning in its area and in order to do this effectively must find solutions for the delivery of additional school places where required.
- 6.2 Basic Need grant funding is made available to local authorities to address the issue of population growth, enabling them to provide additional school places.
- 6.3 The additional primary school places in the Castle Primary area are required due to one third population growth and two thirds housing development. The project will be funded by S106 and Basic Need.
- 6.4 [The Primary and Secondary School Organisation Plan 2015-19](#) (SOP) indicates the Council's Educational Strategies and Criteria for provision of new school places as a result of new housing development or underlying population growth.
- 6.5 Castle Primary school was selected for expansion:
- 6.6 Due to the school's proximity to the new housing development. The new housing is adjacent to Castle Primary and the school is therefore the closest for the pupils generated by the development.
- 6.7 The SOP states "*Where possible existing schools should be expanded.*"
- 6.8 Land adjacent to the school site to be transferred to the Council, free of charge, as part of S106 Agreements to enable the expansion of Castle Primary.
- 6.9 S106 capital contributions have been received to enable the provision of primary school places in the area.
- 6.10 There are insufficient school places in the Keynsham area to accommodate the children generated by the housing development and the underlying population growth.
- 6.11 To aid parental preference as stated in the SOP and to facilitate sustainable methods of transport to school and keep home to school transport costs to a minimum.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 No other options were considered, the expansion of the school is required due to pupils generated from housing development adjacent to the school; S106 land and capital contributions were secured to enable the expansion of Castle Primary.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The School Organisation Manager and Admissions Manager are supportive of the proposal and have reviewed this report.
- 8.2 A PID was presented to and approved by Divisional Directors on 13 December 2016.
- 8.3 The Strategic Director for People & Communities has been consulted, is supportive of the project and has reviewed this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance. The significant risks identified are:
- 9.2 The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places and failure to ensure this will result in the Council being at risk of breaching its responsibility. If implemented the recommendation in this report will enable the Council to meet its statutory duty and the local need in a sustainable manner.
- 9.3 A delayed planning or construction period would create additional organisational issues for the school.

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Background papers	<i>None</i>
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